Australian Bureau of Statistics

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One in six job leavers forced out of last job

Some 2.5 million Australians ceased a job during the year ending February 2012 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Around 1 in 6 of these lost their last job because they were retrenched, made redundant or their employer went out of business. In 2010, around 1 in 5 people reported that they lost their last job for these reasons (compared with 1 in 10 in 2008).

The most common main reasons for ceasing a last job during the year ending February 2012 were:

- 20% left their last job voluntarily to obtain better job or conditions;
- 17% said that their last job was temporary or seasonal; and
- 14% left their job due unsatisfactory work conditions.

Other findings from the survey were:

Of the 12.7 million Australians who worked at some time during the previous 12 months, around 90% or 11.4 million people were employed at February 2012. Of these:

- one in five (2.3 million) had worked with their current employer/business for less than 12 months of whom almost half (1.2 million) had changed their employer/business in the last 12 months; and
- males aged 35–44 years (65%) and 45–54 (64%) most commonly changed employer/business compared to females for whom the age groups most likely to change employer/business were 25–34 and 55–59 (both 58%).

Around 7.3 million employees working at February 2012 had been with their current employer for one year or more. Of these:

- 1.9 million employees (26%), experienced some change in work; and
- around half (49%) of those who had experienced a change in work, had changed the number of hours usually worked, 46% had been promoted and 10% changed occupation (people may have reported more than one change in work).

Further details can be found in *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2012* (cat. no. 6209.0), available for free download from www.abs.gov.au.

Media notes:

- In this context, employees exclude owner managers of incorporated enterprises.
- When reporting on these statistics, attribute the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) as the source.

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